

VZCZCXRO2483
OO RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ
DE RUEHVI #1080 1031333
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 131333Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3089
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS VIENNA 001080

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KUNR](#) [OPDC](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNGA](#) [AU](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN/EU VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 56707

This message is sensitive but unclassified.

11. (SBU) EconPolOff delivered reftel points on April 12 to Engelbert Theuermann, MFA A/S-equivalent for Human Rights. We also provided a copy of the pledge letter we delivered to Foreign Minister Plassnik on April 11. Theuermann, speaking for the EU Presidency, said that the EU's views are similar to those of the USG: the EU member states have also pledged not to vote for systematic violators of human rights, particularly those who under UN sanctions for human rights violations. However, the EU does not intend to develop a "blacklist," as it believes that drawing attention to the violators in this way could backfire, even raising support for these countries.

12. (SBU) The EU's "common approach" to the Human Rights Council (HRC) elections is new territory for the EU, Theuermann said. Fundamental to its approach is avoiding a clean slate in its regional grouping, in order to help prevent "clean states" in Asia and elsewhere. Clean slate elections would make it virtually impossible for the EU and U.S. to prevent the election of countries known for human rights abuses to the Council, he thought.
McCaw